

PROPOSAL FOR FOUNDING THE IOWA
INDUSTRIES FELLOWSHIPS IN WRITING
AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The purpose of this proposal is to emphasize one of the liveliest associations of the name IOWA with excellence, and to suggest a way in which this association can be heightened across this country and around the world.

It was an original idea to bring young writers of talent to this University so that they could write and study in the Program in Creative Writing. There is a great deal of literary talent in the United States, but the University of Iowa was the first academic institution to set up a special plan to train it. The response has been so great, and the success so unequalled, that the resources of the University are no longer large enough to handle the many applications which come from all parts of the country and from Europe, the Orient, and the Near East.

The young writer is not merely a student. Far more than any other person of talent, he creates the image by which a country sees itself, and the image by which other countries also see it. This double purpose is well served at the University of Iowa because writers come here from all regions of the United States, often after early work at other colleges, and from most areas of the world. In the last few years, we have had students from Ireland, Japan, Formosa, South Korea, the Philippines, Canada, England, Sweden, all of whom go back to their native lands with their view of the United States greatly enhanced because they have found a place for their talent in the University of Iowa, in the heart of the Midwest. It is important that these most articulate of all their generation should write and study far from both coasts, where foreign students have tended to concentrate. Here they learn the essential America.

Each year, we lose the chance to bring people of talent because the University's fund for fellowships can not fairly give to the Writing Program sufficient funds to bring them all. The Program is of use to private colleges, which do not have such a plan in their curriculum but know that they can send their talented people to the University of Iowa, after they have taken their liberal arts background.

The Program in Writing is not a frail plan in need of help but a growing and going concern which has surpassed the available resources. Unlike many academic programs, it

requires no materials. Every cent given to it results in aid to a student and in the production which a writer of talent offers. Iowa industry and business is being invited to support an ambition we all have -- to make IOWA stand for the best. To this end, we need to plan far ahead; and we need help from all who believe in this state and in the great cultural future of this country. Given the relatively small amount of money necessary to bring here the young talent everywhere waiting, we could in a few years affect the total literature of the United States, and for less money than would be believed possible. Our ambition is to make the State University of Iowa the greatest center for developing literary culture, in the years when talent is young and impressionable, in the world. Nothing less than the best is of interest.

It should also be stated that this is a competition between the State University of Iowa, with the finest program, and other universities with much larger resources. We intend to win that competition, and to prove we have won it by the high-level production of our writing students.

We intend, also, to see that not only the name of Iowa itself is carried favorably into all parts of the country and into every sort of publicity medium, but that the names of individuals and firms contributing to this project are given wide public recognition. An association between one program in this University and the business community will not be a one-way street, but a mutually advantageous plan bringing credit to both.